

Meeting Minutes

Original Highlands Neighborhood Plan Task Force Meeting March 15, 2006

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
St. Brigid's

Attendees

Task Force

Mark Rose
John Riddick, Jr.
Rev. Donald Goetz

Planning and Design

Ken Baker
Chris French
Steve Sizemore

Consultant

Larry Strange
Alison Townsend
Greg Winn

Introduction

Ken Baker opened the meeting and introduced The Corradino Group to the task force. He stated that this was Corradino's first task force meeting under contract.

Larry Strange of Corradino reviewed the results of the recent public meeting and updated the group on the project schedule. Future events in the planning process will be tied to the third Wednesday of the next several months to coincide with the regular task force schedule. During the April Meeting (April 19), the consultant will hold a workshop/Charrette for the public to participate in the defining of and review of alternatives for each of the optional planning components. If you want more information about upcoming events, feel free to contact Larry at 587-7221.

Larry Strange also spoke briefly about institutional reuse issues. There are several large institutions in the neighborhood: Kindred Hospital, Breckenridge Metropolitan High

School, Mercy Academy, and Jefferson County Traditional Middle School. Larry indicated that conversations with Kindred and Breckenridge did not indicate there would be any changes in use in the near future. Breckenridge did not rule out a move after the 2006/2007 school year but said there was nothing planned. Mark Rose indicated that there were no plans to move Jefferson County Traditional Middle School. Larry said that Mercy would vacate their property by fall 2007 when they would occupy their new site. They are trying to sell their building and would like to try and ensure that the future use complements the heritage of the past. They have had initial discussions with school, assisted living, and related type uses but there has been no formal push to sell the building. A task force member suggested talking to Louisville Metro Development Authority to get their perspective on what could/should happen to the Mercy facility.

Break out Sessions

“Breakout sessions” were held to examine in more detail issues associated with the two primary planning components in the Louisville Metro neighborhood planning process:

- Land use and community form

Chris French gave an overview of the key zoning categories that are relevant to this planning study. Alison Townsend and Chris then facilitated a discussion that had the following emphasis.

- ✓ The discussion was primarily focused on zoning.
- ✓ The presence of bars seemed to be the issue combined with the noise and parking problems that they often generate.
- ✓ It was questioned whether down-zoning to C1 from C2 would really make a difference.
- ✓ If Barret developed with additional bars, the neighborhood would essentially be stuck between two corridors of bars.
- ✓ We need to determine the distance associated with liquor licenses.
- ✓ We also need to map existing liquor licenses. (City Staff have access to this information.)
- ✓ It will also be important in the neighborhood survey to document the existing commercial uses to determine which existing uses are permitted under C1 and which are allowable under C2.
- ✓ Some felt the C1 zoning was more appropriate adjacent to residential uses.
- ✓ In terms of residential zoning, down-zoning was not seen as negative.
- ✓ It was also realized that there could be multiple residential zoning classifications within the neighborhood. Thus, one type of zoning may not fit the entire neighborhood.
- ✓ It was noted that parking requirements could limit the development of additional multi-family uses in the neighborhood.
- ✓ Creation of an Original Highlands Landmarks District could help preserve the historic, residential character of the neighborhood.
- ✓ The group would like more information on a Landmarks District.

- Mobility

Steve Sizemore gave a presentation on Traffic Calming Methodology. One focus was the possibility of enhancing Edwards Street as a North/South bicycle route so that Baxter and Barrett could be avoided by cyclists.

- ✓ Biggest liability for the neighborhood is the Friday/Saturday night traffic into the neighborhood.
- ✓ Comments about same traffic component parking in the neighborhood, particularly at the middle school on Rufer.
- ✓ Discussion about the root of the problem being twofold:
 - Extended serving hours (4 am) at the bars keeps traffic in the neighborhood most of the night
 - The business on Baxter, primarily the bars, have obtained parking waivers based upon parking leases to “borrow” parking spaces from daytime businesses. Anecdotally, some of the same spaces have been leased to multiple (overlapping) users without verification by the City. This means that the number of potential parking spaces appears to be greater than the actual count.
- ✓ Larry Strange introduced the idea of one-way traffic patterns for the side streets that would change in the evenings, basically against allowing the flow of traffic into the residential streets. Example in Columbus, Ohio was cited.
- ✓ Some discussion that the problems need to be studied for possible solutions, rather than just redirecting the inevitable weekend traffic increase to other streets.

Next Steps

An open house/Charrette workshop will be held April 19 from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Jefferson County Traditional Middle School. The purpose of this meeting will be to allow the public to review alternatives developed by the consultant and provide input.